



CAPITOL News

FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE 21ST MICHIGAN SENATE DISTRICT

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ANHYDROUS AMMONIA SAFETY AND SECURITY PRACTICES.

The Michigan Agriculture Commission is recommending that farmers and fertilizer companies adopt the recently approved Anhydrous Ammonia Safety and Security Practices. These are voluntary recommendations for safe storage and handling of anhydrous ammonia that will help protect anhydrous ammonia fertilizer and curb its theft for use in making the illegal drug methamphetamine. Sellers and end users that adopt these practices will be immune from personal injury and property damage claims caused by theft or unlawful use of anhydrous ammonia. A list of the recommendations is available at www.michigan.gov/mda under "AgriBusiness News" or by calling the Michigan Department of Agriculture at (517) 241-2979.

HIGH-RISK CHILD ABUSE INVESTIGATIONS. The Senate recently passed legislation that would amend the Child Protection Law to establish certain protocol for high-risk investigations involving children who have allegedly been abused or neglected. Senate Bill 273 clarifies that the Department of Human Services must notify both the prosecuting attorney and local law enforcement within 24 hours when an allegation is received regarding a risky situation. The following conditions would require a high-risk investigation: if abuse or neglect is the suspected cause of a child's death; if a child is the victim of suspected sexual abuse or sexual exploitation; or if abuse or neglect results in severe physical injury to a child.



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CONSUMER CREDIT FREEZE BILL. Legislation which would allow individuals to place a security freeze on credit reports has passed committee. A security freeze would prohibit consumer reporting agencies from releasing an individual's credit report without expressed consent. Consumers could place a security freeze on their credit report by making a written request to all three of the major reporting agencies. Once a freeze is in place, no one can apply for new credit under the consumer's name. The consumer may temporarily lift a freeze on his or her file to allow the credit to be checked by using a personal identification number. Agencies must lift a credit freeze within 15 minutes of a request. This measure would not be limited to identity theft victims.

PROTECTING FOSTER CHILDREN. Legislation that would help protect foster children from sex offenders has passed the Senate Families and Human Services Committee. Senate Bill 271 would require criminal history and record checks of all current licensees, all individuals seeking a license and those seeking a renewal license for a foster family or foster family group home. The measure also would prevent licensure for those convicted of sex crimes and require criminal background checks on all persons over age 18 residing in the foster family or foster family group home.

PROTECTING SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBERS. Legislation to protect Michigan residents from the possible theft of their Social Security number has been introduced in the state Senate. The bills in the package would amend current law to allow a register of deeds to remove or obscure all or at least five digits of a Social Security number on a copy provided to another individual. They also would allow the register of deeds to remove or obscure all or more than four digits of a SSN that might appear on real estate titles and documents such as recording of deeds, mortgages and instruments of record.